

Unit 2: Collection 5
Selection Test**READING AND LITERATURE****The Fall of the House of Usher** Edgar Allan Poe

COMPREHENSION Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (30 points; 6 points each)

1. Roderick invited his childhood friend to his home because—
 - A) he was eager to resume their friendship
 - B) he wanted his friend to meet his sister
 - C) he was lonely and wanted company
 - D) he wanted his friend to provide him comfort
2. What can you infer about Roderick's character based on his actions throughout the story?
 - A) He is a strong-willed, determined man.
 - B) He is easily influenced and open to suggestions.
 - C) He is highly excitable and has a nervous temperament.
 - D) He is friendly and outgoing.
3. What can you conclude about Roderick's feelings toward his sister based on his actions throughout the story?
 - A) Roderick had a deep bond with his only living relative.
 - B) Roderick was jealous of his sister's beauty.
 - C) Roderick scorned his sister for her weakness and poor health.
 - D) Roderick was insensitive to his sister's needs.
4. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A) Roderick expected his sister to kill him.
 - B) Roderick foresaw his death.
 - C) Roderick intentionally buried his sister alive.
 - D) Roderick hoped that his guest could discover the source of the strange noises.
5. Which of the following statements explains Madeline's actions at the end of the story?
 - A) Madeline wanted to punish Roderick for killing her.
 - B) Madeline wanted Roderick to join her in the grave.
 - C) Madeline did not intend to cause her brother harm.
 - D) Madeline was unable to control her actions.

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VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT Match the definition on the right with the vocabulary word on the left. On the line provided, write the letter of the word or phrase that best defines each vocabulary word. (10 points; 2 points each)

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| _____ 6. morbid | A) stubborn |
| _____ 7. pervaded | B) diseased; unhealthy |
| _____ 8. obstinate | C) excessive |
| _____ 9. inordinate | D) obvious; perceivable |
| _____ 10. palpable | E) spread throughout |

VOCABULARY SKILL Write *P* for positive or *N* for negative next to each statement to tell whether the underlined word has a positive or negative connotation as it is being used in the statement. (10 points; 2 points each)

- _____ 11. The guest was uncertain how to deal with his host's exceedingly bizarre behavior.
- _____ 12. I could not help thinking of the wild ritual of this work, and of its probable influence upon the hypochondriac.
- _____ 13. The teacher encouraged the budding artists to embrace their wildest imagination and explore a range of styles.
- _____ 14. His chief delight was found in the perusal of an exceedingly rare and curious book.
- _____ 15. His reserve had been always excessive and habitual.

LITERARY FOCUS Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

16. Which of the following **Gothic** elements does Poe use in this story?
- A) medieval castle and person buried alive
- B) rotting mansion and mysterious illness
- C) dark dungeon and imprisoned madwoman
- D) underground passages and masked murder
17. What type of **atmosphere** is created by the phrase "During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens ..."?
- A) hysterical
- B) gloomy
- C) mysterious
- D) frightening

Unit 2: Collection 5, Selection Test *continued*

18. Which of the following statements best describes a technique used in "The Fall of the House of Usher"?
- A) Poe uses suspense to keep the reader uncertain of the outcome.
 - B) Poe uses flashbacks to help explain the actions of the characters.
 - C) Poe uses irony to contrast what the reader believes will happen in the story with what actually happens.
 - D) Poe uses an ambiguous ending to suggest an alternative meaning of the story.

READING FOCUS Circle the letter of the best answer to each of the following items. (15 points; 5 points each)

19. Which of the following contains an example of an **allusion**?
- A) "I heard them—many, many days ago—yet I dared not—I *dared not speak*."
 - B) "One of the phantasmagoric conceptions of my friend. . . ."
 - C) "Its proprietor, Roderick Usher, had been one of my boon companions in boyhood. . . ."
 - D) ". . . no shadow of which I felt in the certainly glowing yet too concrete reveries of Fuseli."
20. Poe makes many **allusions** to books and authors because—
- A) he wants to show how well-read Roderick is
 - B) he wants to appeal to readers of classical literature
 - C) he wants to build atmosphere
 - D) he is showing off how well-read he is
21. Read the following sentence: "I had learned, too, the very remarkable fact, that the stem of the Usher race, all time-honored that it was, had put forth, at no period, any enduring branch; in other words, that the entire family lay in the direct line of descent, and had always, with very trifling and very temporary variation, so lain." What is the most likely interpretation of the sentence?
- A) Only the family of the oldest child lived in the Usher house.
 - B) Male children in the Usher family never survived
 - C) The Usher family had only a single male descendent in each generation.
 - D) No female children ever survived in the Usher family.

FIFTEEN MINUTE TIMED WRITING (20 points)

22. On a separate sheet of paper, describe the comparisons Poe makes between the Usher family and the setting of the building in which they live. Support your ideas with details from the selection.